

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Rector's Ramblings

There can be little doubt that we are living in a period of high anxiety. I will not enumerate the various items in the news that are, at least in part, the cause for the anxiety in our society at present. I might name one that you have not heard about, and give you one more reason to be anxious.

Anxiety can be just as dangerous as the events that are the source of anxiety. A few of the effects of anxiety are:

- decreased capacity for learning
- demands for certainty replace curiosity
- stiffens our position against competing ideas
- causes us to engage in binary thinking (either/or)
- leads to defensive behaviors

In short, anxiety robs us of the kind of thinking that would enable us to overcome the challenges that we face. Worse yet, anxiety is contagious. A handful of people who share the same anxiety can have a ripple effect throughout an entire group of people.

In Philippians 4:6, St. Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

The second half of the Book of Daniel records Daniel's visions

of what was to come. He saw that, although Israel would return from their exile in Babylon, they would face many trials in the coming years. In a couple of places, we are told that Daniel became physically ill because of these visions. However, he was given the assurance that God was in control and would save the people.

The cure for anxiety is not to pretend that we are not facing challenges. The cure for anxiety is to see our challenges in light of the power and love of God. The Psalms have numerous prayers of a person who is in trouble, who then turns to God for confidence. Psalm 42, for example, asks, "Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? And why are you so disquieted within me?" The answer is, "Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance and my God."

If you feel overwhelmed by the events swirling around us, tell God about those feelings and concerns. Then remind yourself that God is in control, and even more importantly, God loves you.

Note: In these ramblings, I address normal anxiety and not anxiety disorder. Those who suffer from anxiety disorder should seek professional treatment for the disorder.

Fr. RJ



Holy Eucharist, June 12, 8 and 10 a.m.

We will not have a formal Bible Study during the summer, however, all are welcome to meet for coffee in the family room between the services. We can discuss any topics that are on your mind, or simply enjoy the coffee.

[Lessons](#)

[Bulletin](#)

[Live Stream](#)

Monday, June 13

Knitting, 1 p.m.

Book Club, 7 p.m. (*The Paris Apartment*)

Wednesday, June 15

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m. (Zoom)

[Bulletin Zoom](#)

Save the Date: Reception to say "farewell" to the Kennedys, following the 10 a.m. service on June 26th.

OSSS

The One Stop Service Shop has been a valuable ministry within the Parish of St. Mark's. Unfortunately, we need to suspend the ministry at least for a time as we seek new volunteers to meet the needs of this ministry. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, we are seeking people who are able to assist with odd jobs around the house, do light cleaning, or light gardening. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact Fr. RJ at rjohnson@stmarks-canton.org.

The St. Mark's Meal Train will continue to offer meals to those in need of short term help with meals. If you need meals delivered, Beth Bletzacker coordinates the St. Mark's Meal Train. You may email her at kirkandbeth@yahoo.com or contact the church office, and we will pass the message along.

Finance Committee Ramblings

It's great to be back in church every Sunday. The Finance Committee thanks you for your continued support during the past two+ years. You have made our task much easier by finding new and creative ways to deliver your financial gifts. Here are some options you might want to consider going forward:

The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio :

<https://www.dohio.org/designate-a-gift-to-your-parish>

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Diocese established an online giving process which *does not charge any fees* whatsoever. All other sites we had investigated charged fees. Several St. Mark's families now use the diocesan web site for their regular donations.

+ Gifts can be one time, or they may be given weekly or monthly with established start and end dates.

+ Always designate your gift to "Canton – St. Mark's Church" from the drop-down menu.

+ The "Special instructions or comments" box allows you to direct how the money you donate will be used (general fund, altar flowers, special outreach projects, capital projects, etc.).

+ Your gift can be processed through your credit card or through your bank account.

Bank Bill Pay:

"Bill pay" is a banker's term. Your finance committee prefers "direct processing of your gift to St. Mark's." That's a little long, so we can see why the bank does not use our term.

When St. Mark's was not holding in-person services, several families established automatic payments direct from their bank accounts. Again, these payments can be established on a weekly or monthly frequency. There is no service fee for St. Mark's, but you should confirm with your bank that there is no cost to you.

IRA Required Distribution:

Although not new with the pandemic, this is a simple, **tax free** way to donate used by a number of our parishioners. If you have a Standard IRA with a required minimum distribution (RMD), the Finance Committee recommends that you have a discussion with your financial advisor about making a **direct, tax-free** contribution to St. Mark's. Each situation is different, but it is well worth checking out.

Sunday Morning Offering:

And, of course, you can always bring you gift to church on

Sunday morning and celebrate with your St. Mark's family.

Your Finance Committee

Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

Chris Arnold

Pam Clark

Geoff Gordon

Sara Strattan

John Willoughby

The Diocese has continued to offer easy online giving. To use this, please select "St. Mark's Canton" from the dropdown, and choose either a one-time or recurring gift. We thank you for your continued support.

[Designate a Gift to St. Mark's](#)

Bob's Music Notes

With the addition of choir directing duties, as well as organ playing at the North Avenue church in Baltimore, I was becoming more and more involved in the congregation. With a very Biblically oriented pastor, like the priest we now have (and his predecessors) at St. Mark's, it was a happy situation.



And my desire for a new organ was about to become a reality. During WWII, the Hammond Organ Company in Chicago had done electronic work for the war effort. But with the end of the conflict, they were back in the organ business, with significant improvement in the product with a new CV (chorus/vibrato) control.

And, one week before Christmas in 1946, on December 18th, I played our new Hammond Organ for a dedicatory service. I was on top of the world, and spent hours with this new instrument.

In retrospect, that old reed organ which the Hammond

replaced, was not such a bad item at all. In fact, a few years ago, the Schantz Pipe Organ Company of Orville, Ohio, sponsored a show with a dozen or so reed organs from their inventory, and a feature of this display was hearing all of them played together. The sound was so warm and sweet. I spent lots of time getting to know the Hammond and planning for some recitals on it. But I was to discover that not everyone in the church thought this was a good idea.

Church Life Profile Request

Church Life features a profile section where three parishioners from throughout the Diocese share their journey with their faith/The Episcopal Church. These are very short (150-175 words) and include a headshot. If you would like to submit a profile for consideration, please send your submission and headshot to Jessica Rocha at jrocha@dohio.org.



June Birthdays

1 Judy Hixon
3 Carol Popovich, Zeke Gordon
6 Paul Sack
9 Jeff Turner, Tim Turner
17 Evan Jenkins
24 Bruce Schutrum
28 Abi Highman

June Anniversaries

1 Ronald and Joyce Rupp
17 Charlie and MaryAnn Kiesling
20 Beth and Kirk Bletzacker,
Paul and Gail Wetherell Sack
27 John and Sarah Highman

Prayer Concerns

Fred Gibbs, Jim Weaver, Jane Schutrum, Ron Hill, Amelia Rowland, Ron Brookes

Family and Friends: Allison Hood (anonymous); Baby Finnigan Savage & family; Terry L. (friends of Pam McCarthy); Dan Dennis (friend of John Werren); Jimmy Little (Sue Little's son); Bob Patterson, Anne Higgins & Nancy Sauer (friends of Diana Cornell); Lynn McBride (Beth Crowl's father); Bonnie Giammarco & 2 daughters (Gary's cousin Jerry); Lenny Reich (acquaintance of the Hixons); Kahmario Coleman & Stew Hudson (family friend & husband of Jan Hudson); Aurora (friend of the Gordons); Matt Gagnon (assistant principal at Oakwood Middle School); Theresa & Addelyn (friends of Judy Hixon); Yanette Pysher (Vonda Temelkoff's cousin); Sandy Snyder & Doug Fulton (friend & brother-in-law of the Rands); Lynnda Hoefler (friends of Sue Little); Janet Sheatzley Morgan (Barb Siegfried's sister); Tony Donahue & Beth Conley (friends of Cricket Boyd); Carol Jones (daughter of Buck & BJ Jones); Lesley & Holly (friends of Paulette Frech); Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler); Baby David (friend of the Schaub's); Bob Patterson (friends of Diana Cornell); Sullivan & Guzman families & Pastor Marilyn Roman (friends of the Mulls); Johnny Willoughby (grandson of the Willoughbys); Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver).

For those who have died.

Paul Welch

For those in the armed forces.

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for the specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Prayer requests may be placed on the private Prayer Chain or on the Prayer Concerns list appearing in The Lion's Pause and Sunday bulletin or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference. Unless otherwise instructed, names will be listed as we receive them. Please update Bobbi or Katie on the

status of your friends or family members as to when they may be removed from the prayer lists.

Contact Us:

Fr. RJ
Office
Wardens



Need to update your directory listing, birthday, or anniversary? Update [here](#).



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We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"